



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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FINANCIAL EXPERTS HELP MT. AIRY SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS SECURE FUNDING. . . .AND GROW!

Philadelphia, PA – Officials from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) joined forces with Mt. Airy USA, Sovereign Bank and Temple University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) today to visit one-on-one with small business owners who operate businesses along Germantown Avenue in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia.

The visits were made as part of an ongoing series of Economic Development Tours that SBA's Philadelphia District Office has been conducting. These tours are in line with SBA's aggressive outreach to small business communities throughout Philadelphia and other eastern central and northern Pennsylvania counties. Small business owners received information on funding options for expansion and get answers to questions on various aspects of their business.

"We want the small business community, especially the targeted entry markets (minorities, women, veterans and the disabled) in the Philadelphia region, to know that the SBA is committed to helping them succeed. This economic tour is a perfect way to demonstrate that the SBA means business," said Allegra McCullough, regional administrator for the SBA's Region III. "Many of the small businesses we visited today could qualify for SBA guaranteed loans," said McCullough.

Iola Carter, director of Mt. Airy USA's Avenue Project said, "Mt. Airy USA's interest in this tour stems from the fact that we want not only to bring merchants to the corridor, but also to continue to bring meaningful resources to the merchants of Mt. Airy. Our goal is to assist in keeping our businesses in business."

The tour group met at the Mt. Airy USA office. Participating in the tour were SBA Regional Administrator Allegra McCullough, Iola Carter, Mt. Airy USA's Avenue Project Director Iola Carter, Temple Small Business Development Center (SBDC) business consultant Pearl Wang-Herrera, and Sovereign Bank Branch Manager Aubrey Kenney. The group visited a variety of businesses from the 6600 to the 7100 block of Germantown Avenue. They gave small business owners information on financial and technical assistance programs and services available to them. Businesses visited ranged from very new to established ventures, and included a manufacturer of high-end violin bows, a photographer, a shoe shiner and a furniture artisan, to name a few. Mt. Airy USA is working diligently to improve the business climate and diversity in their community and this tour was just one more way of fulfilling their goal.

To learn more about SBA's Philadelphia District Office's programs and services, visit www.sba.gov/pa/phil or call 215-580-2SBA.

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